then another will fly a foot or two off the ground and settle again directly. It may be that they are in this way looking out for danger.

They always perch in very prominent positions on trees and for this reason are difficult to approach. I have heard them utter a very subdued continuous wailing cry.

161. Corvultur albicollis.

Corvultur albicollis Stark, Birds S. Afr. i. p. 10.

"Iwabai l'intaba."

This Crow has been seen flying around the granite kopjes at Hillside. It appears to be confined to the neighbourhood of hills, and more especially those of the granite formations such as we have in the Matopos about 40 miles south of Bulawayo, where I have seen this bird in great numbers.

162. Corvus scapulatus.

Corvus scapulatus Stark, Birds S. Afr. i. p. 12.

"Iwabai."

An extremely common bird in the town from January to June, but during the rest of the year only a few are seen occasionally. It frequently rests in trees or on the posts supporting the electric-light wires. Its foods consists of scraps of meat or other offal, and I have also seen it hunting for ticks on donkeys' backs. It has a harsh guttural croak.

VII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

1. *Allen on* Bæolophus bicolor-atricristatus.

[The *Bæolophus bicolor-atricristatus* Group. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xxiii. p. 467 (1907).]

The Tufted Titmouse of the Eastern United States (*Bæolophus bicolor*) is replaced in Texas and Mexico by the quite distinct species *B. atricristatus*. The breeding-ranges of these two species, as it has recently been discovered, overlap in Southern and Central Texas, where intermediate forms are found and have been described as new subspecies,

Parus atricristatus castaneifrons and *P. bicolor texensis*. Dr. Allen discusses the true status of these birds at full length, and, after a careful study of all available material, accepts Mr. Ridgway's view that "the birds shewing mixed characters are hybrids" and not "geographical intergrades." A somewhat similar case in the Oriental Region is that of *Coracias indicus* and *C. affinis* (see Blanford, Fauna of Brit. Ind., Birds, iii. p. 106).

2. *Berlepsch on the Birds of Cayenne.*

[On the Birds of Cayenne.—Part II. By Hans, Graf v. Berlepsch. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 201.]

We have now before us the second part of Graf von Berlepsch's excellent memoir on the Birds of Cayenne, of which we have already noticed the first ('Ibis,' 1908, p. 616). In the two parts together 626 species are included. In the second part the author begins with the Trochilidæ, of which he enumerates 38 species as found in Cayenne.

Additions and corrections follow the List, and it is stated in a "Summary" that we may add about 140 more species which, although not yet recorded from Cayenne, are likely to be found there. We are therefore "justified in computing the number of species that belong to that country to be about 766."

"*Penelope granti*" is proposed as a new name for the species of Guan from British Guiana called *P. marail* by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant (Cat. B. xxii. p. 495), the *P. marail* of Gmelin being probably = *P. jacupeba*.

3. *Cheeseman on the Lesser Frigate-bird.*

[Notice of the Occurrence of the Lesser Frigate-bird (*Fregata ariel*) in North Auckland District. By F. F. Cheeseman. Trans. New Zealand Inst. xl. p. 265 (1897).]

In Buller's "Supplement" to his 'Birds of New Zealand' it is stated that there is only one authentic record of the occurrence of *Fregata ariel* in New Zealand. The capture of a second specimen of this bird in the peninsula north of Auckland and various particulars about it are now

described by Mr. Cheeseman, the Curator of the Auckland Museum.

4. *Drummond on the Little-Barrier Bird-Sanctuary.*

[The Little-Barrier Bird-Sanctuary. By James Drummond, F.L.S. Trans. New Zealand Inst. xl. 1907.]

After reading Dr. Fulton's lugubrous account of the decadence of the Avifauna of New Zealand (see below, p. 175), it is pleasant to know that some steps have already been taken to alleviate the evil and seem likely to be, to a certain extent, successful. Little Barrier Island in the Gulf of Hauraki (about 10,000 acres in area) has been declared a "Bird-Sanctuary" and no bird on it is allowed to be destroyed, or interfered with in any way. Mr. Drummond spent a fortnight on the island in the beginning of 1907 and gives us a satisfactory account of what he observed. He had only to go "outside his tent to see scores of Bell-birds, Whiteheads, Tuis, Tom-tits, Fan-tails, and other small birds." Many other native birds were observed, and the two migratory Cuckoos are said to arrive and depart at their regular seasons. Altogether some 41 species live and thrive in the island, and the experiment, so far as it goes, is an undoubted success. But we do not see that it will do much to help restocking the main islands with native bird-life.

5. *Flower's List of Zoological Gardens.*

[Zoological Gardens of the World. Reference List, 1st Oct., 1908. Capt. S. S. Flower, Zoological Gardens, Giza, Egypt.]

Capt. Flower has sent us a copy of the new edition of his 'List of the Zoological Gardens of the World,' which we have great pleasure in introducing to the notice of our readers. It is arranged alphabetically under six heads—Africa, America North, America South, Asia, Australia, and Europe. Altogether 80 Gardens are enumerated—4 African (Egypt and the Transvaal); 21 North American, in various States, the best-known being those of Bronx Park, New York, and Philadelphia; 3 in South America (Buenos Ayres, Pará, and Rio); 8 in Asia (British India, Saigon, and

Japan, &c.) ; 4 in Australia (3 of which have members of the Le Souëf family as Directors) ; and 40 scattered over Europe, no less than 18 being found in different towns in Germany. As we have often heard said, the establishment of a Zoological Garden is a very fair test of the progress of civilization in every country. We thank Capt. Flower for the trouble he has taken in preparing this useful list. We have already noticed his report on the Zoological Gardens in Europe which he himself visited in 1907 (see 'The Ibis,' 1908, p. 619).

6. *Fulton on the Disappearance of New Zealand Birds.*

[The Disappearance of New Zealand Birds. By Dr. Fulton. Trans. New Zealand Inst. xl. p. 485.]

"Owing to change in environment, alterations in food-supply, and disturbance of the balance of Nature by ridiculous importations of birds and animals," Dr. Fulton tells us, "our beautiful feathered friends are fast going to the wall." He discusses the different groups of Land-birds of New Zealand, and gives ample proofs of this melancholy fact. The Birds of Prey "are now rarely seen," the Tui is "fast disappearing," the Thrush is "very rare," the Native Quail is "absolutely extinct"—such are the sad stories put before us. The same sort of process is, no doubt, going on in all civilized lands, but in New Zealand it is progressing more rapidly.

7. *Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels.'*

[A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares). By F. DuCane Godman, D.C.L., F.R.S., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. Part III. September, 1908. Witherby & Co.]

The third part of this important Monograph continues the good work on the system described in our notices of the first and second parts (see 'Ibis,' 1907, p. 515, and 1908, pp. 367, 527). The present part is mainly devoted to the widely spread genus *Œstrelata*, of which 23 species are recognized, and all but two are figured, with "more to come." They are far wanderers, as their name implies, and

one of them (*Œ. hæsitata*) has the honour of being included in the British List, on the faith of a single straggler.

8. *Hartert's 'Miscellanea Ornithologica'*: Part V.

[Miscellanea Ornithologica—Critical, Nomenclatorial, and other Notes, mostly on Palæarctic Birds and their Allies. By Dr. E. Hartert. Part V. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 295 (1907).]

Dr. Hartert shews that *Acrocephalus inexpectatus* of Berezowski and Bianchi, from Southern Kansu, is based upon a young specimen of *Acrocephalus orientalis*, the eastern form of *A. arundinaceus*. He also discusses the species of *Scotocerca*, and maintains—we fear correctly—that the form of *Scotocerca* lately met with in the Wadi Hof, near Cairo, by Mr. Nicoll, and characterized by him as new under the name *Scotocerca inquieta innesi* (Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 98), does not differ from the typical *Scotocerca inquieta*.

9. *Hilgert's Catalogue of the Erlanger Collection.*

[Katalog der Collection von Erlanger in Nieder-Ingelheim-a.-Rh. Von Carl Hilgert. Berlin: Friedländer, 1908.]

The great collection of birds formed by the late Carlo, Freiherr von Erlanger, who lost his life by a sad accident, when only just commencing his career *, has been carefully arranged and catalogued by Herr Carl Hilgert, his taxidermist and companion in travel. The 12,500 specimens are referred to 1419 species in the List, and the name, date, and locality are attached to each of them. The collection is specially rich in N.E. African species (where Erlanger made extensive researches) and contains many types. The catalogue will be very useful to those who are working on African Birds, and gives many references to Erlanger's publications.

10. *Marriner's Notes on the Kea* (Nestor).

[Additional Notes on the Kea. By George R. Marriner. Trans. New Zealand Inst. xl. p. 534 (1907).]

Mr. Marriner visited a Sheep-Station (Mount Algidus) in the North Island of New Zealand in July 1907, and

* See 'The Ibis,' 1905, p. 144.

quite convinced himself of the ravages of the Kea (*Nestor notabilis*) upon the flocks (see 'The Ibis,' 1908, p. 382). He took photographs of the dead victims, and also of the nest-holes of the Keas, which breed in nearly inaccessible cavities in the highest rocks. We are not sorry to be told that with such breeding-places there seems to be little chance of these "interesting but cruel birds" being exterminated!

11. *Menegaux's Ornithological Papers.*

[(1) Catalogue des Oiseaux envoyés en 1906 du Tonquin et de l'Annam par M. Bouton. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'H. N. 1907, No. 1, p. 6.

(2) Liste des Oiseaux rapportés en 1906 par M. Geay de sud-ouest de Madagascar. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'H. N. 1907, No. 2, p. 102.

(3) Ornithologie renseignements pratiques (i., ii., iii.). Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'H. N. 1907.

(4) Catalogue des Oiseaux rapportés par M. et Mme. Ph. de Vilmorin de Soudan Égyptien. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'H. N. No. 6, p. 385.

(5) Liste des Oiseaux de la Guyane Française donnés au Muséum par M. Rey. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'H. N. 1907, No. 7, p. 493.

(6) Oiseaux de l'Équateur donnés au Muséum par M. Gonessiat. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'H. N. 1908, No. 2, p. 107.

(7) Étude d'une collection d'Oiseaux de l'Équateur donné au Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Soc. Phil. de Paris, 1908.

(8) Sur les embryons, les poussins, et les jeunes oiseaux des Régions australes. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'H. N. 1898, No. 2.]

M. Menegaux, who is now in charge of the Mammals and Birds in the French National Museum, has kindly sent us copies of the eight ornithological memoirs of which the titles are given above. No. 1 contains the names of 30 species of birds, examples of which were received from the French Colonies of Tonquin and Annam. No. 2 gives an account of a collection of birds made by M. Geay in Madagascar, which are referred to 19 species; amongst them is a pair of that rare and singular form *Uratelornis chimæra*. M. Geay observed in the sands of the sea-shore near Cap

Sainte Marie in Southern Madagascar innumerable fragments of the eggs of *Æpyornis*. No. 4 relates to a collection of birds from the Egyptian Soudan made by M. and Mme. de Vilmorin. Fifty-eight species are enumerated, and notes are added on each of them. In No. 5 we find the first and second parts of a list of birds forwarded to the Paris Museum by M. Rey, the Governor of the Colony of Cayenne. Most of the 74 species are well-known, but *Vireolanius leucotis* is rather a rarity. In Nos. 6 and 7 M. Menegaux transfers his attention to Ecuador, and registers two collections made in various parts of that Republic. The former, presented by M. Gonessiat, contained examples of 47 species; the latter was a set of duplicates from the Museum at Quito, which are referred to 47 species, many of them being rare and new to the Paris Museum.

12. *Neumann's Notes on African Birds.*

[Notes on African Birds in the Tring Museum. By Oscar Neumann. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 366 (1908).]

Prof. Neumann begins his notes with a useful list of the Musophagidæ, of which he recognizes 32 species and subspecies, belonging to the genera *Corythæola* (1), *Chizærhis* (2), *Corythaicoides* (5), *Gymnoschizorhis* (3), *Musophaga* (2), *Ruwenzorornis* (2), *Gallirex* (2), and *Turacus* (15). Nearly all the Turaci are provided with three names, and the very distinct *Musophaga rossæ* is made a subspecies of *M. violacea*! *Turacus livingstonei loitanus* is a new subspecies from the Loita Mountains, B.E.A.

After disposing of the Touracos, Prof. Neumann gives us his "List of the African Psittacidæ," with much information about their localities, recognizing 31 species and subspecies. Of these *Pœocephalus gulielmi fantiensis*, *P. meyeri nyansæ*, and *Agapornis pullaria ugandæ* are described as new subspecies. But he omits to mention *Agapornis lilianæ* and *A. nigrigenis*, both excellent and well-marked species, because, we suppose, they are not represented in the Tring Museum. It would, however, have been well to mention

their names in a footnote, if only to show that desiderata occur even in this excellent Collection. Of *A. nigrigenis* many examples have lately been imported alive to England, and it has been well figured by Goodchild in the 'Avicultural Magazine' (vi. p. 317, 1908).

After examining these two articles we are more dissatisfied than ever with the practice of reducing what are quite valid and well-marked species to subspecific rank merely because they are supposed to be representatives of each other in different areas.

13. *North on new Birds from the South Pacific.*

[On Three apparently undescribed Birds from Henderson or Elizabeth Island, Paumotu Group. By Alfred J. North. Rec. Austr. Mus. vol. vii. No. i. 1908.]

Six specimens, in spirit, of birds from Henderson or Elizabeth Island, an outlier of the Paumotu Group, South Pacific, have been lately received by the Australian Museum, Sydney, from Mr. A. E. Stephen. They are referred by Mr. North to three new species, which he proposes to call *Calliptilus* (?) *stepheni*, *Ptilopus insularis*, and *Porzana atra*. Two plates are given to illustrate the natural features of the island, which belongs to Great Britain.

14. *North on the Nesting of the Australian Black-and-White Fantail.*

[On an unusual Nesting-site of *Sauloprocta melaleuca*. By Alfred J. North. Rec. Austr. Mus. vii. p. 21 (1908).]

A pair of this pretty bird nested in 1907 in the verandah of Mr. North's house at Roseville, Sydney. As the nest was just opposite his sitting-room, Mr. North had good opportunities of observing the habits of this species, which are here fully described. Mr. North noticed that both parents sit, but that after a remarkably short time each bird called to its mate to be relieved. The average time during which each bird sat was only a quarter of an hour. This species has not been previously observed to build in a house.

15. *Report on the Zoological Gardens, Giza, for* 1907.

[Government of Egypt. Public Works Department. Zoological Gardens, Giza, near Cairo. Report for the Year 1907 (Ninth Annual Report) by the Director. Cairo, 1908. 30 pp.]

Like most of the other British institutions which we have introduced into the Land of the Pharaohs, the Zoological Gardens at Giza seem to be in a very flourishing state. Capt. Stanley Flower informs us that the year 1907 has proved a "record" for the Gardens under his charge in the number of visitors, in the amount of gate-money taken, and in the increase of the Menagerie. The donations of living animals (225) exceeded in number those received in any previous year, and among the species which bred in the Gardens in 1907 were the Koodoo and the Addax, two fine antelopes which are not known to have reproduced their kind elsewhere in captivity. A new aviary has been built for the Ibises and allied birds, and a new enclosure has been made for the Flamingoes. Amongst the birds which bred in the Gardens in 1907 were the Crowned Pigeon (*Goura coronata*) and Hey's Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*).

We need hardly add that no lover of natural history who goes to Egypt should fail to visit the Giza Gardens, which are situated on the tram-line leading to the Pyramids. The three Shoe-bills (*Balæniceps rex*) are still alive and well!

16. *Rothschild on* Casuarius bistriatus.

[Note on *Casuarius bistriatus* Oort. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 392.]

Mr. Rothschild recognizes *Casuarius bistriatus*, lately described by Dr. Van Oort (see 'The Ibis,' 1907, p. 541), as a good subspecies, but maintains that it ought not to be compared with *C. beccarii*, but with *C. sclateri*, of which it is a smaller form. He now enumerates eight subspecies of *C. galeatus*.

17. *Rothschild and Hartert on the Birds of Vella Lavella.*

[The Birds of Vella Lavella, Solomon Islands. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 351.]

Mr. Meek has now visited Vella Lavella, one of the

Central Group of the Solomon Islands, in which no bird has ever been obtained before, and has furnished the Tring Museum with a collection from it containing examples of 51 species. Although the majority of these are the same as those of the other islands of the central group, some interesting new forms have been discovered (see Bull. B. O. C. xxi. pp. 105–107). The peculiar races of Vella Lavella are remarkable as shewing "a tendency towards melanistic coloration."

18. *Rothschild and Hartert on Birds from San Christoval.*

[On a Collection of Birds from San Christoval, Solomon Islands. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 359.]

Mr. Meek has also been able to pay a short visit to San Christoval, in the southern group of the Solomons, and to fill up, at all events partially, a much-lamented gap in the fine series of the Avifauna of this group in the Tring Museum. The specimens in it are referred by the authors to 34 species, of which *Halcyon perplexa, Monarcha castaneiventris megarhynchus,* and *Zosterops alberti* are characterized as new. Many of the species described from San Christoval by Tristram and Ramsay are likewise represented in the collection, but, unluckily, not *Ceyx gentiana* !

19. *Schalow on the Birds of the Tianshan.*

[Beiträge zur Vogelfauna Centralasiens von Herman Schalow.—II. Uebersicht der von Herrn Dr. Gottfried Merzbacher im Centralen Tiënschan gesammelten Vögel. Journ. f. Orn. 1908.]

On a former occasion (see 'The Ibis,' 1907, p. 511) we called attention to the collection of birds made by the great German traveller Dr. Merzbacher in Central Tianshan, and stated that an account of it was being prepared by Herr Schalow. This account has now been completed, and has been published in two parts in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1908. Herr Schalow has favoured us with a separate copy of his excellent article, and we have great pleasure in saying a few words on it.

The Tianshan Range borders the great desert of the Tarim on the north, rising in places to a height of over 7000 feet and forming a portion of the central mass of the Asiatic continent. Being within the limits of the Palæarctic Region, although not far removed from the unascertained northern boundary of the Oriental Region, the Tianshan is of special interest to workers in Palæarctic Ornithology and deserves our closest attention. Herr Schalow has given us a list of the more recent authorities on the birds of the district, which are not numerous. It will be observed that Russian naturalists (Koslow, Loudon, Bianchi) are, as might have been expected, prominent among them.

Herr Schalow does not state the exact number of specimens in Dr. Merzbacher's collection, but we believe it was not very numerous. Dr. Merzbacher did not himself collect birds, but employed two taxidermists to do so. The specimens thus obtained are referred by Herr Schalow to about 150 species, which, as a rule, are well-known Palæarctic species, or, in some cases, we may say subspecies, for Herr Schalow is a strong advocate of trinomials, and gives three names to the greater number of the birds referred to. There are a few Himalayan forms in the list, such as *Mycerobas carneipes*, *Carduelis caniceps*, and *Ruticilla grandis*, but the majority are northern mountaineers.

It is quite certain that there are many more species of birds in the Tiantshan than are represented in the present collection, and we are glad to hear that Dr. Merzbacher has returned to that country and may probably procure an additional series.

20. *Stuart Baker on Indian Ducks.*

[The Indian Ducks and their Allies. By E. C. Stuart Baker, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. With 30 coloured Plates, by H. Grönvold, G. E. Lodge, and J. G. Keulemans. 1 vol., large 8vo. 292 pp. Bombay and London, 1908. London : R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

Mr. Stuart Baker has contributed to the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society a series of articles on the Indian Ducks and other Chenomorphæ. He now reprints

these, with additions and corrections to bring the List up to date, in a handsome octavo volume, which is further ornamented by 30 coloured plates drawn by some of the best living bird-artists. Mr. Stuart Baker wisely follows nearly the arrangement and nomenclature used by Salvadori in the twenty-seventh volume of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds. He introduces the Red-breasted Goose into the Indian Avifauna mainly on the faith of specimens seen on the Brahmapootra. It is quite likely to occur there in the cold season, but we are not aware of there being Indian specimens of this Goose in any museum. The generic name of *Rufibrenta*, we may observe, which is here adopted for this species, is quite unnecessary, as it is a typical *Brenta*, except in colour.

We do not find that Mr. Stuart Baker has solved the problem of what the Swan is that breeds regularly on the Lake of Seistan (see 'Ibis,' 1906, pp. 397, 612, 737).

21. *Stuart Baker on the Birds of the Khasia Hills.*

[Birds of the Khasia Hills. By E. C. Stuart Baker, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. 1907, pp. 783, 957.]

The Khasia Hills in Assam, although separated from the Himalayas by the great valley of the Brahmapootra, are said to have nearly the same phase of animal life. All round the foot of the Khasias, as Mr. Stuart Baker tells us, the dense tropical woods contain much bird-life, but few forms of great interest. Towards Shillong there are immense stretches of grass-land, until, about five miles from that place, where the pine-forests begin, in the extreme east of the Khasias, there is another kind of country—grass-covered hills varied by scattered oak-forests. "Towards Cherraponji and its vicinity there are many huge cliffs that afford breeding-places to several interesting birds, amongst which are the local Swift (*Cypselus acuticauda*) and the Striped Swallow (*Hirundo striolata*). *Hirundo daurica* also breeds in the houses in the native villages." Other interesting birds of the Khasias, Mr. Stuart Baker tells us, are the Long-tailed Wren

(*Urocichla longicaudata*) and the local form of Laughing-Thrush (*Dryonectes subcæruleus*).

Mr. Stuart Baker's List of Species is compiled from the collections of Hume, Godwin-Austen, and others, and from several collections made by his own men. He follows the arrangement and nomenclature of the 'Fauna of British India,' and gives short notes to each species. As regards the subfamily Brachypteryginæ of the Crateropodidæ, he remarks that, although for the sake of convenience he retains Oates's classification, there is no doubt that the majority of the birds placed in this family in the 'Fauna of British India' belong elsewhere. He would accordingly refer the genera *Myiophoneus, Larvivora,* and *Drymochares* to the Turdidæ.

Altogether Mr. Stuart Baker enumerates about 536 species as belonging to the Khasian Avifauna.

22. *Stuart Baker on the Indian Cuckoos.*

[The Oology of Indian Parasitic Cuckoos. By E. C. Stuart Baker, F.Z.S. Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. 1906–8. (Parts I.–V.)]

The abnormal breeding-habits of the Cuckoos are of special interest to all naturalists, and Mr. Stuart-Baker has done well to prepare a series of papers on the engrossing subject of their eggs, to which he has long devoted his attention.

"The great difficulty," he observes, "to be overcome in collecting Cuckoos' eggs is not so much to get hold of eggs which are Cuckoos' beyond all doubt, but to obtain proof as to what particular Cuckoo they belong to. To do this it is absolutely necessary to get eggs direct from the oviduct of the female, and because Cuckoos' eggs vary so much it is of no use to get one egg only, but series are required." The Indian Parasitic Cuckoos, to which Mr. Stuart-Baker confines his attention, are 17 in number, belonging to the genera *Cuculus, Hierococcyx, Cacomantis, Penthoceryx, Chrysococcyx, Surniculus, Coccystes,* and *Eudynamis.* The true *Cuculi* in India are four. Our familiar *C. canorus,* which heads the list, is stated to breed freely throughout the Himalayas and Sub-Himalayas, the Burmese Hills,

Chagpore, and the Neilgherries. Mr. Stuart Baker has seen about 40 Indian specimens of its eggs. A list of 20 species of Passeres in which its eggs have been found is given. The egg of *C. saturatus* has also been obtained, but is much scarcer than that of *C. canorus*; it is white or very slightly speckled, and two coloured figures are given of it on plate i.

Of both the two other Indian species of true Cuckoo (*C. poliocephalus* and *C. micropterus*) authenticated eggs have also been obtained, and that of the latter is figured on plate ii. It is pale blue, but in some examples a few specks are visible.

Of *Hierococcyx nisicolor* the eggs are quite different, being short and stumpy, and varying from dark brown to olive, but those of *H. sparverioides* are again of a uniform pale blue.

The known eggs of the species of *Cacomantis, Penthoceryx, Chrysococcyx, Surniculus, Coccystes,* and *Eudynamis* are all fully discussed by Mr. Stuart Baker in Parts II. and III. of this series of excellent papers, and many interesting eggs are figured and described. In Part IV. some additional notes are given, and the extreme abundance of our common Cuckoo in the Khasia Hills is insisted upon. In the spring of 1907 at Shillong the author had brought to him no less than 59 eggs of *Cuculus canorus*! In Part V. (1908) Mr. Stuart-Baker descants on an undoubted *blue* egg of *Cuculus canorus,* and shews that a remarkable egg found in a nest of a Sun-bird (*Æthiopyga scheriæ*) must have belonged to *Chrysococcyx maculatus.*

23. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses in* 1907.

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1907. 25de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vid. Medd. fra d. nat. Foren. Kbhvn. 1908.]

This is the twenty-fifth annual report of Herr Winge's series of papers upon the birds obtained and observed at the lighthouses which surround the coast of Denmark. In 1907 1738 specimens were forwarded to the Cophenhagen Museum and referred to 79 species, while the whole number of birds observed was estimated to be over 8000. The species of

most frequent occurrence were *Alauda arvensis*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, *Turdus iliacus*, *T. musicus*, *Erithacus rubecula*, and *Fringilla montifringilla*. The commonest migrant of all appears to be the Song-Thrush, of which it is calculated that at least 4492 specimens were noticed. Yet this bird (in spite of what Newton told us long ago, see 'The Ibis,' 1860, p. 83) is not usually considered to be a migratory species!

An excellent map, as usual, accompanies Herr Winge's report and shews the position of all the Danish lighthouses.

24. *Wollaston's 'Ruwenzori.'*

[From Ruwenzori to the Congo. A Naturalist's Journey across Africa. By A. F. R. Wollaston. London: John Murray, 1908. 1 vol., 8vo. 315 pp.]

Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston was one of the expedition planned and financed by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant to explore the mountain-chain of Ruwenzori, and, as Medical Officer, to look after the health of his companions (Messrs. Woosnam, Dent, Legge, and Carruthers) and their followers, as well as to assist the good cause by helping to form botanical and zoological collections. We have given frequent notices of the progress of the Ruwenzori Expedition in this Journal and an account of its return, also of the mode in which it is proposed to publish the results*, but this volume is the first regular narrative of the Expedition that has been made public.

Dr. Wollaston was not able to start along with the other members of the Expedition, and when he caught them up found them already well established in camp at Bihunga, on the eastern slope of Ruwenzori, in the Upper Mubuku Valley. Here the party remained for very nearly four months, and found no lack of occupation in any branch of natural history. For the first month the weather was uniformly fine. "Day succeeded day of bright sunshine and cloudless skies: it was neither too hot by day, nor too cold by night. Birds nested, butterflies were on the wing, and the hill-sides were ablaze with flowers." But suddenly

* 'Ibis,' 1908 p. 548.

the rain came, and thereafter, with the exception of a few occasional fine days, never ceased, so that the climate fell much below the ideal that had been previously formed of it. However, excellent collections were made both in zoology and botany in spite of the weather, and various excursions were carried out with the view of reaching the snowy summits of the main range. Among the birds met with at an altitude of some 13,000 feet was a splendid new Sun-bird, "of a dark metallic green shot with a wonderful iridescent purple," which has been named "*Nectarinia dartmouthi*," after one of the most liberal supporters of the expedition.

The next chief halting-place of the expedition was on the plains of Ruisamba, a very different kind of country, which flanks the Ruwenzori range on the south-east. Here a second base-camp was formed near a village called Muhokya, and collections were again made. The next effort was to find a good resting-place in the Congo Free State district on the western slope of Ruwenzori. To do this it was necessary to go round the south end of Ruwenzori, and then turn northwards down the Semliki Valley to the Congo Free State Station of Beni, celebrated as the place where the Okapi was discovered by Sir Harry Johnston. Although the Ruwenzori Range was reached from this station, and the Butagu Valley was ascended to a height of 10,400 feet, the hostility of the natives—due, it seems, to the mismanagement of the Belgian officers—soon necessitated a hasty retreat to Fort Beni and thence to Toro. Here it was resolved to be impracticable to continue the exploration of the eastern slope of Ruwenzori in the then disturbed state of the country, and it was agreed to break up the expedition. Mr. Legge returned straight to England by Entebbe and Mombasa, Messrs. Woosnam and Dent made a direct journey to the West Coast down the Aruwimi and Congo, and Dr. Wollaston and Mr. Carruthers resolved to visit the volcanoes of Mfumbiro and Lake Kivu and thence to cross the Continent to the West Coast by a more southern route. How they accomplished this is well told in the present volume, which is one of the best-written and most inter-

esting books of travel that we have comeacross for many years. There are some, though not many, allusions to birds in it, but Dr. Wollaston was busy with his plants and insects and left the "birds" to his companions, from whom we shall, no doubt, get full information on this part of the subject when the general results are published.

The volume is well illustrated by numerous full-paged plates taken from photographs, most of which are excellent. No one interested in Natural History of any kind should fail to read it.

VIII.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

We have received the following letters addressed "To the Editors":—

Sirs,—Some account of the breeding of the Golden-eye (*Clangula glaucion*) in captivity may perhaps find a place in 'The Ibis.'

I had kept a pair of these ducks for six or seven years on a pond in my park together with a great variety of other water-fowl. The male courted the female every spring, but she had never laid any eggs. In May last the female was observed to frequent some of the nesting-boxes which are placed on poles in different parts of the pond, and in the latter half of the month two bright green eggs were found in one of the boxes and a third in another box.

As the female Golden-eye shewed no inclination to incubate, being probably disturbed by some female Summer-Ducks which laid eggs in the same boxes, the three green eggs were put under a domestic hen. After being sat upon for twenty days, on the 26th of June the three eggs were hatched, giving birth to three black-and-white ducklings. One of these died the first day, but the two others have been doing well and are alive now. The downy dress may be described as follows:—Upper parts black, crown of head glossy black. Throat and sides of head to almost under the eyes, but *not* meeting at the back of the neck, pure white. A white spot